

# MISSISSIPPIANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Mississippians. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Mississippi. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Mississippi.*

## **INCOME: MISSISSIPPIANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in Mississippi was \$38,463.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Mississippi was \$34,396, a significant drop of 10.6 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN MISSISSIPPI HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, Mississippi had 384,000 adults without insurance (13.6 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Mississippi had 495,000 adults without insurance (17.4 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Mississippi had 79,352 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.<sup>5</sup> If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program, Mississippi will face a funding shortfall of \$37,519,000.<sup>6</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN MISSISSIPPI**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Mississippi was \$7,181.<sup>7</sup> In 2005, it was \$9,019, a 26 percent increase.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Mississippi was \$13,717.<sup>9</sup> In 2005, it was \$16,460, a 20 percent increase.<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Mississippians affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 21,094<sup>11</sup>
- Number of Mississippians affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 28,882<sup>12</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Mississippi was \$1.401 a gallon.<sup>13</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Mississippi is \$2.294 a gallon.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Mississippi was \$2,368.<sup>15</sup>

- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Mississippi is \$3,877, \$1,509 (63.7 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>16</sup>

### **SOCIAL SECURITY: MISSISSIPPIS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Mississippi – 545,710.<sup>17</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Mississippi – \$774.<sup>18</sup>

### **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: MISSISSIPPIS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Mississippians killed in Iraq – 38<sup>19</sup>
- Number of Mississippians wounded in Iraq – 196<sup>20</sup>
- Number of Mississippians killed in Afghanistan – 3<sup>21</sup>
- Number of Mississippians wounded in Afghanistan – 8<sup>22</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Mississippi – 240,109<sup>23</sup>

### **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING MISSISSIPPI'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 119 estates in Mississippi paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- Only 20 estates in Mississippi will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>25</sup>
- In contrast, 139,000 workers in Mississippi would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.<sup>26</sup>

### **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST MISSISSIPPIS**

**The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Mississippians.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Mississippi residents each received an average of \$1,944 in tax cuts, while middle class Mississippi residents received only \$367.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Mississippi residents will receive an average of \$22,385 in tax cuts, while middle class Mississippi residents will only receive \$636.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Mississippi residents will each receive an average of \$41,311 in tax cuts, while middle class Mississippi residents will only receive \$717.<sup>29</sup>

**The richest Mississippians receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Mississippians received 5.4 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 20.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>30</sup>

- But, in 2006, the richest Mississippians will get 21.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.3 percent of the tax cut.<sup>31</sup>
- And, in 2010, the richest Mississippians will get 36.4 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.6 percent of the tax cut.<sup>32</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Mississippians.**

- In 2010, the richest Mississippians will receive an average of \$6,278 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Mississippians will be getting over 50.4 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>33</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Mississippians will receive an average of \$19 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 3.1 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>34</sup>

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